

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A chewing gum comprising: (a) one or more elastomers, sweeteners and flavorants, and (b) an amount of a granulated isomalt additive having a particle size greater than about 50 mesh such that said additive provides a crunch to said gum.

2. The gum of claim 1 wherein said gum is a sugarless gum.

3. The gum of claim 1 wherein said additive is prepared by heating isomalt at a temperature of 130°C or higher, cooling to form a solid isomalt product, and granulating said solid isomalt product to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.

4. The gum of claim 3 wherein said additive is prepared by dissolving isomalt in water to form a solution and heating said solution to a temperature in excess of 130°C prior to cooling.

5. The gum of claim 3 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 145°C.

6. The gum of claim 5 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 160°C

7. The gum of claim 1 wherein said isomalt contains one or more flavoring agents.

8. The gum of claim 1 wherein said isomalt contains one or more dyes or colorants.

5 9. The gum of claim 1 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size greater than 40 mesh.

10 10. The gum of claim 9 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size range of 30 mesh to 40 mesh.

15 11. The gum of claim 1 wherein said amount of said additive is from about 9% to about 16% by weight of said gum.

12. The gum of claim 11 wherein said amount is from 10% to 15% by weight.

20 13. A process for the preparation of a chewing gum product, said process comprising:

a) preparing a granulated isomalt additive by granulating solid isomalt to a particle size greater than 50 mesh, and,
25 b) blending a crunch-producing effective amount of said additive within said chewing gum product.

30 14. The process of claim 13 which further comprises heating isomalt at a temperature of 130°C or higher and cooling to form said solid isomalt product.

15. The process of claim 14, which further comprises dissolving isomalt in water to form a

solution and heating said solution to above 130°C prior to cooling.

16. The process of claim 14 wherein said
5 isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 145°C.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein said temperature is above 160°C.

10 18. The process of claim 13 wherein said additive contains one or more adjuvants selected from flavorants and colorants.

15 19. The process of claim 13 which further comprises screening said granulate to a particle size less than 40 mesh prior to said blending step.

20 20. The process of claim 19 wherein said granulate is screened to a particle size between about 30 mesh and 40 mesh.

25 21. The process of claim 13 wherein said amount of said additive is from about 9% to about 16% by weight of said gum.

22. The process of claim 21 wherein said amount of said additive is from 10% to 15% by weight.

23. A granulated isomalt additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, said isomalt additive prepared by a process wherein isomalt is heated at a temperature of above 130°C, cooled to form

545 B1
30

Sub B1

a solid isomalt product and granulated to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.

Sub E 1

24. The additive of claim 23 wherein said chewing gum is a sugarless gum.

noted
in
10

25. The additive of claim 23 wherein said process further comprises dissolving isomalt in water to form a solution and heating said solution to above 130°C prior to cooling.

26. The additive of claim 23 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 145°C.

15

27. The additive of claim 26 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 160°C.

20

28. The additive of claim 23 wherein said isomalt contains one or more flavoring agents.

29. The additive of claim 23 wherein said isomalt contains one or more dyes or colorants.

Sub D1

25

30. The additive of claim 23 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size greater than 40 mesh.

not

30

31. The additive of claim 30 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size range of 30 mesh to 40 mesh.

Sub B2

32. A process for the preparation of a granulated isomalt additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, said process comprising:

Sub B2

- a) heating isomalt at a temperature of 130°C or higher;
b) cooling to form a solid;
c) granulating said solid to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.

Sub E

33. The process of claim 32 wherein said chewing gum is a sugarless gum.

34. The process of claim 32 which further comprises dissolving isomalt in water to form a solution and heating said solution to above 130°C prior to cooling.

35. The process of claim 32 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 145°C.

36. The process of claim 35 wherein said isomalt is heated to a temperature of above 160°C.

37. The process of claim 32 wherein said isomalt contains one or more flavoring agents.

38. The process of claim 32 wherein said isomalt contains one or more dyes or colorants.

39. The process of claim 32 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size greater than 40 mesh.

40. The process of claim 39 wherein said granulated additive has a particle size range of 30 mesh to 40 mesh.